

INTRODUCTORY

Karnataka country has ceased for some time now to work actively for improvement. Its armoury of religion, philosophy and poetry is rather rusted. It was not however always so apathetic. There were days when it sought to know the good and the true and to range itself on their side. Its teachers made belief in a just and good God and a sense of the dignity of the human soul the common property of all men and induced in the average mind a sturdy attitude in the face of life and courage in the face of death. Their work is not yet over. When the country begins to take a full view of its life and to build again it will find ready to hand the basis of a culture which essentially is neither mean nor ignoble. In the essays that follow an attempt has been made to indicate this basis of the culture of this people by describing the main features of the movements which aimed at popular uplift and the manner in which the popular mind has responded to them.